



May 14, 2013

Aloha Chair Fukunaga and members of the Public Safety and Economic Development Committee,

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii (Coalition) strongly supports Bill 28. The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is an independent organization in Hawai'i who works to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a nonprofit organization with over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that work to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

The dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke are well-known. The U.S. Surgeon General, in 2010, notes that any level of exposure to secondhand smoke is dangerous and can be harmful. Bus stops often attract large numbers of people, and commuters have limited opportunities to avoid secondhand smoke in these areas. Many families, elderly people, and people with disabilities use TheBus for their regular transportation, putting them at risk of exposure to secondhand smoke. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of secondhand smoke; their bodies are still developing, and exposure can cause asthma, respiratory infections and other health problems.¹

Growing scientific evidence shows that secondhand smoke has a harmful effect on air quality in some outdoor settings. Studies have shown that when people are in close proximity to each other, the levels of exposure to secondhand smoke can be comparable to secondhand smoke levels measured within enclosed spaces.²

The Coalition strongly supports this effort in order to protect the health of all people in public spaces. We look forward to working with our city and state governmental agencies, including TheBus, the Department of Health, the Honolulu Police Department, and any other stakeholders, to ensure a successful implementation of this new policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jessica Yamauchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jessica" being more prominent than the last name "Yamauchi".

Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Health Effects of Exposure to Secondhand Smoke." Accessed from <http://www.epa.gov/smokefree/healtheffects.html> on May 9, 2013.

² Global Smokefree Partnership. (2009). "The Trend Toward Smokefree Outdoor Areas." Accessed from <http://www.globalSmokefree.com/gsp/resources/recurso.php?id=225> on May 6, 2013.

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